

WEEKLY NEWS

Thursday, October 25, 2012

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'We were misled on health centre'

BY JENNIE BAKER

Email: editorial@haverhillweeklynews.co.uk

RESIDENTS were "misled" over the closure of the Crown Health Centre, a councillor has claimed.

The walk-in GP centre in Haverhill shut in July, even though thousands of signatures were gathered on a petition calling on NHS Suffolk's board to halt the closure until sufficient alternative health provision had been guaranteed. The campaign was supported by the *Weekly News*.

One of the reasons the Suffolk Primary Care Trust (PCT) gave in a consultation leaflet for it being "more realistic" to close the centre was that it only had temporary planning permission, they had not found a permanent solution and the clock was ticking for them to leave the site.

Later in the leaflet NHS Suffolk said the borough council "clearly said" planning permission would not be extended.

But one of the borough council's conditions on granting the application in 2008 was that the building be removed by December 4, 2012 "unless planning permission is renewed".

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Purr-fect role: Jasmine Burr, left, and Shannon Vittles-Webb will share the role of Dick Whittington's cat for a show in Haverhill in December. See story – page 3.

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Settling in: parents and children at the Blois Meadow Day Nursery which Gala Bejar's (right) children Nicolas, 3, also pictured top left, and Alex Marquez, 2, both attend five days a week. Above centre is Janine Playle and her son Michael.

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Couple's huge efforts pay off at day nursery

A HUSBAND and wife team have taken over a day nursery in Steeple Bumpstead. Alison and Ross Midgley, from Hempstead, launched Blois Meadow Day Nursery, formerly the Ashdon House of Children, at the start of the month.

Ross said: "The weekend before we opened was quite a challenge.

"We had a team of eight builders and 12 volunteers creating new doorways, building walls, fitting a new kitchen and laundry, cleaning all the rooms and toys and fitting finger protectors to the doors.

"With a 7am Monday deadline for everything to be finished, it was like an episode of Ground

Force."

Alison, a former primary teacher who manages the nursery, said the formula was simple.

She said: "Invest in staff development, listen to what parents want, provide a safe, welcoming environment where children can learn through play and make sure they are well fed

and happy.

"But experience and attention to detail count for a lot as well."

The Midgleys founded the Crocus Early Years group of nurseries which they sold in 2007.

For more information about the nursery, call Alison on (01440) 730520.

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Councils scheme may mean more job losses

A JOINT leadership team which will head up two Suffolk councils has been completed but further job losses are likely be in the pipeline as part of the process to share services.

People have been chosen to fill the nine shared heads of service roles dealing with housing, planning, economic development and other areas.

The number was reduced from 15 as part of efforts to share services between St Edmundsbury Borough Council and Forest Heath District Council.

The councils have cut 10 jobs in the last two years as part of the shared services programme and they have redeployed another six employees who would have otherwise been made redundant.

Further job losses are likely ahead of the completion of the restructuring process in

BY JENNIE BAKER

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the late spring but the councils say they will avoid redundancies where possible. They said they have empty posts which can be scrapped and some staff on temporary contracts.

Joint chief executive Ian Gallin said: "We have been managing vacancies extremely carefully so we do not expect the number of compulsory redundancies to be large."

Cllr James Waters, leader of Forest Heath District Council, said: "None of this has been easy but it has been essential to make us fit for purpose moving forward."

Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury are working with staff and the public sector union Unison towards a collective agreement on a new pay and reward strategy which they hope to reach by



Fair deal: Cllr John Griffiths of St Edmundsbury Borough Council.

January.

Cllr John Griffiths, leader of St Edmundsbury Borough Council, said they were looking to do this with, rather than to, staff.

He said: "Most savings have come from top earners.

"We are looking to work with our staff and Unison to try to get the most fair deal for everybody in the circumstances."

The creation of the joint leadership team also involved replacing two chief executives with one and cutting four directors down to two. Mr Gallin was appointed earlier this year and Liz Watts and Alex Wilson were chosen as shared directors last month.

The new management structure approved by both councils has delivered savings of £870,000 and will help them towards the £2.3 million in annual budget savings they plan to make by 2014/15.

Their savings target for this financial year was £833,000 and they are achieving £1,216,000.

Mr Gallin said he was delighted to welcome the new team, adding: "Working across council boundaries in West Suffolk, cutting back on the overheads and sharing as much as we can is essential. There's a lot of work ahead but this is a hugely talented team."

There are no plans to have a single base for the councils.

Princess Anne will open sports hall in town visit

BY JENNIE BAKER

Email: editorial@haverhillweeklynews.co.uk

PRINCESS Anne will be touching down in Haverhill and Cambridge on Tuesday.

The Princess Royal will open the Samuel Ward Academy's sports centre which has been in use since the start of term.

During her visit, the princess will be entertained by a choir of year seven and eight students.

Howard Lay, principal of the academy, said: "We are honoured and delighted to receive a visit from HRH The Princess Royal.

"The visit is to officially open our new sports centre which will help sustain the Olympic legacy.

"Samuel Ward has four young Olympic hopefuls for Rio attending the school and over 600 pupils take part in at least three enrichment activities per week, many promoting the Olympic culture and aspiration.

"We are determined not to only educate children for academic success but also for sporting and cultural achievement which builds confidence and resilience."

The sports hall is divided in two by a fence with a gate in it and pitches for games from tennis to basketball are laid out.

Biotech company Genzyme, which has had a site in Haverhill's Rookwood Way for three decades and now employs 300 people there, will be also visited by the princess while she is in the region.



Welcome return: Princess Anne, pictured during a visit to Suffolk earlier this year, will be in Haverhill next week.

828867

Princess Anne will also be on hand to open the refurbished offices of St Edmundsbury Borough Council in Haverhill's Lower Downs Slade during her visit.

In Cambridge, she will visit the Scott Polar Research Institute in Lensfield Road to attend a tea reception with members of the

Antarctica 100 group of organisations which is chaired and coordinated by the United Kingdom Antarctic Heritage Trust, of which she is patron.

The reception will take place following a meeting of the group.

The Princess Royal will also be given a tour of the Institute's Polar

Museum which was visited by her father, Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, on several occasions during his time as chancellor of Cambridge University.

Princess Anne last visited the region in May when she opened a £1.8 million Racing Welfare housing scheme in Newmarket.

Girls will share purr-fect role for pantomime show

TWO girls are the cats who got the cream after landing a part in a pantomime. Jasmine Burr and Shannon Vittles-Webb are set to share the role of Dick Whittington's cat in That's Entertainment Productions' show which is taking place at the Haverhill Arts Centre in December. The girls will start rehearsals for the professional production in a few weeks.

Chris Gidney, the show's director, said: "There are so many talented youngsters in the area that it was very difficult to choose one. After lots of thinking we still couldn't decide, so in the end we had to choose two cats."

Katherine Mansi, the show's choreographer, said: "The girls have a special talent and with the jumps, tap and acrobatics they will make an excellent and exciting all-dancing contribution to what promises to be an exciting and glittering production."

Dick Whittington and his Amazing Cat will be performed between December 20 and 27. For more information and tickets, call the box office on (01440) 714140 or visit www.haverhillartscentre.co.uk

Another chance with funds to help out the High Street

HAVERHILL has won £10,000 of Government cash to help out its High Street.

The town was among hundreds in the country which applied but failed to become one of 27 Portas Pilot towns and land a hefty grant.

The initiative was launched by television's Mary Queen of Shops with Local Government Minister Grant Shapps after the retail expert said high streets were in decline.

But the unsuccessful towns were given another chance to apply for funding and Haverhill is among those to have been awarded it.

Cllr Anne Gower, board chairman of the ONE Haverhill partnership which applied for the funding, said: "We were obviously disappointed that we did not win the first round of bids but delighted to have a second bite of the cherry."

"It is brilliant that we have won this £10,000 so we can find out who owns the empty shops and encourage them to help bring these premises back into use by, among other things, encouraging innovative uses. This work will also hopefully encourage new retailers to take a look at our town and help us make Haverhill the vibrant shopping destination people want it to be."

Clocks go back

DON'T forget to put your clocks back by one hour on Saturday night as British Summertime ends.

Committee supporting extension for health centre's refurbishment

■ From Page 1

A planning application has now been submitted by the Suffolk PCT to extend the building's planning permission until the end of March to allow other health services to be delivered from there while refurbishment work is taking place at the Haverhill Health Clinic in Camps Road.

Cllr Gary Stroud said at a meeting of Haverhill Town Council's planning committee on Tuesday: "It's very disappointing that they [the PCT] have misled the people of Haverhill."

However, he said that he believed they had to support the application.

He added: "I think it's sad that we were misled by the Primary Care Trust over the fact that we could not extend the Crown Health Centre as it was because they would not get planning and they subsequently have now put in planning permission to extend it."

"Having said that we have got to think about the people of the town and at the moment the only facilities they have got with regard to health care is within the Crown, so I can't see that we can object to extending the planning



Furious: Cllr Maureen Byrne.

permission."

Cllr Maureen Byrne said at the meeting: "I'm absolutely furious for the contempt that the PCT has shown in the way they have treated us."

"It doesn't matter what we do, what we raise on behalf of the residents of Haverhill on healthcare and other things, they totally ignore our representation."

The planning committee resolved to support the application on the condition the

permission was extended to March 31. St Edmundsbury Borough Council will make a decision on the application at a later date.

A spokesman for NHS Suffolk said: "Haverhill Health Centre, which houses physiotherapy, podiatry clinics, health visitors and district nurse services, needs to be refurbished for safety reasons."

"The application for planning permission means some staff and patient services from the Haverhill Health Centre can be temporarily relocated for a limited period of three months to the former Crown Health Centre pods."

"Without this permission the refurbishment work would take longer and cause greater disruption and inconvenience to patients and staff."

"This relocation of some staff and services is for the very short term. Planning permission for the permanent siting of the pods would not have been granted by St Edmundsbury Borough Council, a situation the authority made clear to NHS Suffolk."

"Once the work at the Haverhill Health Centre is complete, patients will experience a health care facility fit for the 21st century."

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Academy is outstanding from first inspection

AN academy has earned an outstanding rating from Ofsted on its first inspection.

Haverhill's Samuel Ward Academy hosted five inspectors who sat in on more than 30 lessons, spoke to staff, students and governors, looked at work and analysed parents' views of the school during two days earlier this month.

The former Samuel Ward Arts and Technology College was declared outstanding in 2008 and became an academy in November 2010.

The academy has been judged to be outstanding in all four categories which assess students' achievement, their safety and behaviour, the leadership and management and quality of teaching.

The school said it was one of the first to undergo the new tougher Ofsted inspection.

BY JENNIE BAKER

Email: editorial@haverhillweeklynews.co.uk

Principal, Howard Lay, said: "This is a fantastic achievement and I would like to thank pupils, staff and parents.

"It is thoroughly deserved and places Samuel Ward at the forefront of schools nationally.

"The Secretary of State for Education has made it clear that only about four in 100 schools will achieve outstanding under this new framework so we are delighted to have been one of the first.

"Pupils have achieved some of the highest outcomes at both A-level and GCSE within Suffolk and with the huge progress being made by the new year seven and eight pupils the success is set to continue.



Team effort: students with Howard Lay, principal of the Samuel Ward Academy, which has been rated as outstanding by Ofsted.

Picture: Keith Jones 869137

"Inspectors were not only impressed by the academic success of the pupils but also their confidence and maturity, which will help them progress into careers or higher education.

"This is also a significant success for the area and will enable Samuel Ward to take advantage of even more opportunities at both national and international level."

The academy welcomed year seven and eight students for the first time in September last year and the

inspectors said the transition had been managed "outstandingly well".

The report said: "Together with a highly effective governing body, a strong senior team and very committed staff, the headteacher has ensured that much of the academy's ambitious vision has come to fruition, including the recent addition of a lower school.

"Leaders have managed this transition outstandingly well, with the new students settling quickly and thriving as a result."

The report said pupils have an "exemplary" attitude to learning which helps them make increasingly speedy progress.

It praised the governing body and said the range of subjects and after-school activities allows students to develop "excellent" understanding of moral, cultural and social issues.

It said the sixth form is good and improving and for the academy to get even better, it needs to boost the progress of pupils in a few sixth form subjects.



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Family's loving tribute to tragic Brent

TRIBUTES have been paid to a 23-year-old with "a heart of gold" who died in a crash in Sible Hedingham.

Brent Jelley was cycling in Swan Street on Sunday when he was in collision with a Ford Fiesta driving in the same direction.

He was treated at the scene by

ambulance crews and taken to Broomfield Hospital, Chelmsford, but he died the next morning.

Mr Jelley's family said: "Brent spent his first two years living in Sible Hedingham before his family moved to Ipswich.

"Aged five he returned to live in Great Yeldham until aged 13 years

where he attended Hedingham Comprehensive School. He then moved to Spain with his mother.

"Aged 16 he returned to Sible Hedingham where he remained. He had various jobs, working as a builder's labourer, or a roofer.

"He was a really likeable lad who had a heart of gold."

COMMUNITY NEWS

Email your Community News to editorial@haverhillweeklynews.co.uk

West Wrating

At West Wrating's last parish council meeting there was a presentation from South Cambs District Council on the Government's desire for communities to have emergency plans in place.

The parish council would be grateful for any input, for example: Nicky Addley is a trained first aider, defibrillator operator and first responder; Ian and Simon Boreham have mechanical diggers, engineering tools and civil engineering skills; David Wallace has general technical knowledge/skills, plus a comprehensive workshop, electrical generators, a water pump and welding and cutting equipment.

If you would be happy to put your name and skills/equipment into the plan, please contact David Wallace or have a chat to any parish councillor.

For many years, thanks to Robert Altham, there has been an attractive village website which he set up and managed.

Robert and his family have now moved from the village and a group of villagers have been looking at updating the website. They have now set up a new website with help from Stuart Turner (Squeaky Mouse) who has provided guidance and generously agreed to host the new website.

Thanks to his help several people are now able to administer the website on a day-to-day basis. Thank you to all who have been involved in getting this started, now it is the turn of all villagers.

Please have a look at www.westwrating.org.uk. Villagers are encouraged to make comments and suggestions, including information for inclusion, by following the link on the home page under 'welcome'. The more this website is used, the more valuable it will become.

All six West Wrating youth football teams have made an excellent start to the season, all winning their opening couple of games.

With a new committee at the helm, the club is in excellent shape and with

recent investment in equipment, all age groups are now benefiting from appropriate size pitches and goals.

This will be a mandatory requirement of the Football Association from the start of the 2014 season, so to have the appropriate set-up two years in advance, and only four months after the announcement, puts development at West Wrating Youth FC in a very solid position. The six age groups running at present are under-8, under-9, under-11, under-12, under-13 and under-15.

The 2012 West Wrating Youth FC Christmas cash prize draw tickets are now on sale as a fundraiser. This is to help continue the investment in player and coach development, to ensure the club continues to promote the game being played the 'right way', leading by example and setting standards to affect the local community, learning to respect the game and above all the young players, referees, coaches and all the qualified supporting staff.

More information from Kevin Ager, vice-chairman of WWYFC.

Wedding chef has his own licence to thrill

BY LEANNE EHREN

Email: editorial@haverhillweeklynews.co.uk

A RESTAURANT owner and top chef has been given a licence to thrill after landing a contract at a lavish James Bond-themed wedding on board a Boeing 747.

Dulon Miah, owner of The Mogul at Woodlands Hotel, Haverhill, was handpicked for the wedding and will dish up traditional Bangladeshi cuisine on the plane featured in *Casino Royale*.

Award-winning chef Mr Miah, who also owns a restaurant in Saffron Walden, will cook the majority of his 'top secret' wedding menu before taking his team of staff to the tarmac at a private airfield in Surrey where they will dish up the feast alongside wedding organisers Pride of Asia.

Mr Miah, who runs the business with his brother Sunnu, was picked not only for his cooking accolades but also because he flew out to Miami to cook a curry for Daniel Craig and the crew of the



Big day: from left, Abdul Hasan and Layla Begum who are getting married and Dulon Miah, owner of The Mogul.

Quantum of Solace four years ago.

It is believed that lucky couple Abdul and Layla Hasan, who were married at a Muslim ceremony three weeks ago,

have spent in excess of £80,000 on the 007 wedding.

The couple will fly in a private jet with about 40 guests to tie the knot while flying over St Paul's Cathedral

in London in an English ceremony on November 6.

They will join 400 guests on the converted Boeing 747 for the reception at a private airfield which is best known for being used by BBC show *Top Gear*.

Mr Miah, 36, said: "They wanted to do something different that hadn't been done in this country before and I am honoured to be involved."

"I have done a lot of work with the World's Biggest Curry and was the only person who

had curry connections with a James Bond movie, so I am so happy they picked me.

"I have done weddings in Saffron Walden and the surrounding area for about 120 people or so, but this is going to be quite a bit different."

The new Bond film *Skyfall*, marking 50 years of the 007 movies, opens tomorrow after the premiere at the Royal Albert Hall on Tuesday night.

This is not the first star-studded request Mr Miah has had.

In 2008 he cooked a number of dinners for the Bangladeshi Olympic team and associated businessmen, and then flew out to Beijing to serve it.

He has also flown to Los Angeles to serve Hugh Hefner and sent a £1,900 takeaway order to California for an ice cream company boss.

Driver charged in death crash

A MAN has been charged with killing a motorcyclist through dangerous driving.

Derek Foster, 37, of Winstanley Road, Saffron Walden, was killed when his Honda CBR 125 and a Ford Focus collided on the B1054 in Hempstead shortly after 7am on Wednesday, July 4. A 29-year-old man from Haverhill has been charged with causing death by dangerous driving. He has been released on bail until his appearance at Colchester Magistrates' Court on Tuesday, November 6.

Thieves leave empty-handed

WOULD-be thieves tried to ram their way into a business compound in Haverhill.

Suffolk Police said it appears the lock and chain fastening the gates to the compound in Rookwood Way were rammed between 7pm on Sunday and 7am the next morning.

The metalwork was damaged but nothing was taken. Call Suffolk Police on 101 with the crime reference HH/12/2255 if you saw anything suspicious.

Bring your toy

THE Colne Valley Railway is inviting youngsters to bring their favourite cuddly toy to its final Steam With Colin day this year.

Youngsters bringing a soft toy to meet railway teddy bear Colin and his friends on Wednesday will qualify for half price entry to the attraction in Castle Hedingham.

Gates will be open between 10.30am and 5pm.



All together: Haverhill mayor Cllr Pat Hanlon with the town's competitors ahead of the Joan Mann Special Sports Day.

It's a special time for all at annual sports day

A SPECIAL sports day was held at RAF Lakenheath with Haverhill residents taking part.

Haverhill mayor, Cllr Pat Hanlon, was there to see off the town's contingent to the annual event.

In its 31st year the Joan Mann Special Sports Day event brings together people with special

needs for a fun day of sports and activities, supported by US servicemen and servicewomen – and 22 members and volunteers from LAMP-H were invited and made an early start to get to RAF Lakenheath for an 8am start.

The day began with an Olympic-style torch relay and a parade of athletes.

Then athletes competed in various events, including a football pass and punt, bowling, frisbee toss, obstacle course, basketball toss and 100m dash.

Volunteers cooked a lunch of hamburgers and hotdogs, while others escorted the athletes to and from events. At the end of the day, the winning athletes were

given medals.

Joan Mann was a Ministry of Defence employee working in the public affairs office. She conceived the special sports day as a way to not only offer special-needs people of all ages a day of fun, but also to draw the civilian and military communities closer together.

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WEEKLY NEWS LETTERS

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Wrong figures given as fact

Sir, I was disappointed that the article 'Anger at parking purge' allowed some incorrect figures to be stated as fact, and that neither the police nor Haverhill Town Council, which supported the police action, were given the opportunity to comment (*Weekly News*, October 18).

Firstly, on the issues of fact, the police did not stop 93 blue badge holders. Quite the opposite – they allowed 93 blue badge holders to enter the High Street, as they are legitimately entitled to do as things stand. So Mr Chapman's statement that the action was "...stopping 93 customers from shopping in the town" is both incorrect and misleading.

A further statement that "a lot of those people that were given tickets came from Essex and Cambridgeshire" is also misleading. It is a clear misrepresentation of Inspector Ferrie's earlier statements about the police action, which reported that many of the blue badge holders – who were not prevented from entering the High Street or given tickets – had come from those counties.

On the question of the value of the police action, I think it important to balance the concerns expressed by Mr Chapman and Mr Richards. Firstly, what the article barely acknowledged is that the police actions were as a direct result of persistent public demand.

The police and other agencies are required by law to ascertain the public's priorities for addressing crime and anti-social behaviour, and do this at regular public meetings. At every meeting I have attended I have felt the strength of local public opinion that has made traffic and parking enforcement on the High Street a seemingly permanent priority. So the police have to act, and in fairness to public opinion, all people are asking is that the current regulations – which allow only blue badge holders, loading and delivery between 10am and 4pm on weekdays – be enforced. Some may prefer a High Street that allows unrestricted vehicular access, and if so they should be directing their ire at Suffolk County Council, which is responsible for the restrictions, rather than criticising the police, who are simply showing their accountability to the people they serve.

But a 'free for all' in the High Street brings with it certain consequences. Quite aside from the dangers of unrestricted traffic and parking, this environment caters largely for people who simply want to pop into town for a sandwich, a newspaper or a trip to the cashpoint. The town council aspires to something better – we want to see a wider range of shops than at present, and a shopping experience that encourages people to stay in the town for more than a few minutes. Our preferred solution is pedestrianisation between 10am and 4pm, a change that we think will attract shops that cater for more than the passing visitor, in a setting that will provide for more than just the 'drive through' shopper.

Shoppers in Haverhill agree with us – we spoke to them face-to-face over the summer and a great majority



Police action: an officer chats to motorists during the parking crackdown earlier this month.

(more than 70% of 754 we spoke to) expressed their support for our vision. As a demonstration of what we mean, you only have to visit on a Saturday, when the town centre is already closed to traffic – but is both busy and relaxed.

Whilst we need to cater for the short stay, as well as for blue badge holders and deliveries to shops, we believe we are already losing custom to other towns because other needs are not being fulfilled by the town centre as it is now.

This was actually one of the town council's reasons for supporting the police action – we wanted to see whether such a vision could be achieved without pedestrianisation. The results – including a count of 93 blue badge holders entering the High Street (which only has space for 20 parked vehicles) legitimately in a two-hour period on one day, and 25 being booked on another for using it as a cut-through – provide us with strong evidence that even if traffic and parking was limited to lawful users of the High Street, the number of vehicles remains completely unmanageable and as big a deterrent to shoppers as anything that the police in high-visibility jackets can do. And just to allay the fears expressed by Mr Richards and Mr Chapman, there were plenty of shoppers out and about during the police action, almost all congratulating Inspector Ferrie on his attempts to address their concerns.

Furthermore it was clear to me that as soon as the police officers had completed the action, the High Street was crammed full of parked and moving vehicles again, many of them illegally parked or using the road as a shortcut.

The town is not short of shoppers, and that's a credit to the existing town centre businesses – including Mr Chapman's and Mr Richards' – who are surviving the downturn very well compared with other similar towns. It's a solid base on which to build, but we need more if we are to provide for an estimated additional 10,000 people in the town over the next 20 years. Our efforts – including support for the police action and support for pedestrianisation – are aimed at achieving that change. That they accorded with the public desire for greater enforcement was a helpful coincidence.

Will Austin
Town clerk
Haverhill Town Council

council for a traffic warden. Mr Chapman's remarks don't make any sense – I was one of the 93 blue badge holders that were stopped. We were only stopped so they could verify that the badge was up to date and at no time, as far as I am aware, were any blue badge holders turned away.

David Jenkins
Address supplied

Maybe better without traders?

Sir, Following a discussion in your paper some weeks ago I wrote to ask why the mayor *et al* were so keen to 'pedestrianise' the high street. They responded with the usual stuff about how this would 'improve' the town centre. I was, therefore, amused to read your headline "Anger at parking purge" and the comments from traders on how their businesses had been adversely affected. No doubt the mayor and the council would like to 'improve' them out of town altogether? No doubt they feel that the presence of actual businesses on the High Street detracts from Haverhill's quirky charm.

Dennis Richards
Moneypiece Close
Haverhill

Credit due for a great stage show

Sir, Haverhill really does have talent! It might well have been a set of usual circumstances that caused me to find myself at the opening night of 'The Sound of Music' at Haverhill Arts Centre last Tuesday evening, but to be very honest it was both a great surprise and a real treat to learn that Haverhill really does have so much artistic talent in its midst.

The leading lady was good but I expected that; – what did pleasantly surprise me was the work put in by the whole cast, with the performance of some very talented kids stealing the show for me.

The show was well choreographed and the musicians played to the level one might expect of a very good West End production.

If I had just one little gripe, it would be that the stage lighting could have benefitted from an upgrade – but then considering this was an amateur production, the people behind Centre Stage (who put it all together) have nothing at all to feel ashamed about. In fact, they are entitled to feel very proud indeed.

Perhaps, though, the local council have found the perfect good cause to spend all that money they are raising issuing traffic fines in the high street. They could give the money to a group of amateur performers of whom Haverhill can be justifiably proud. Now that would definitely help put the town in a better light!

Daniel Hannan
Address supplied

Police deserve full support

Sir, Having just read the article headlined "parking purge" I feel I must defend the police action 100%. It has taken a long time for them to try to resolve this problem that was forced upon them because of the lack of a traffic warden that should have been supplied by the borough council. I am fed up with not being able to park in the High Street on occasions between 10 am and 4pm (my wife has a blue badge and does not drive so I am the nominated driver) because of people that are too lazy to walk a short distance from the car parks. There have been numerous times when I have seen people park on the pavement just to go and purchase a coffee and then return to their vehicle with drink in hand and then drive off whilst drinking it! I am in full support of people being ticketed for parking on the pavement and this includes blue badge holders. Some badge holders should refer to the book issued with the badge as to the places they can and cannot park. As for shopkeepers complaining about losing business, I am sorry but there are adequate car parks within easy walking distance.

The idea is to leave the area clear for those less able to walk these distances without difficulty. Some of the business being lost is not due to tickets being issued, it is because some shopkeepers have an attitude of "I can get it for you in a few days or perhaps next week". Wake up – people have been using the internet to shop for a long time and travelling further to shop even if they have to pay more for parking – i.e. Cambridge. Instead of slating the police, give them the full backing they deserve. They have a thankless job and would far rather be attending to other matters. So if you want to have a go about parking start bombarding the borough

LETTERS POLICY

Letters should arrive by noon on the Monday before publication. Full name and address must be supplied and details will be withheld only in exceptional circumstances. Letters should be no longer than 250 words and may be edited.

Please email your letters to editorial@haverhillweeklynews.co.uk

Alternatively write to: Letters to the Editor, Haverhill Weekly News, 4 Queen Street, Haverhill, CB9 9EF

Feather in his cap for David

BY JENNIE BAKER

Email: editorial@haverhillweeklynews.co.uk

A KEEN birdwatcher has been made a regional ambassador for a project run by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO).

David Hack, from Haverhill, became one of the BTO's ambassadors in Suffolk for their Garden BirdWatch (GBW) project last week.

The approximately 14,500 Garden BirdWatch recorders are asked to note down the species and numbers of birds and other wildlife they see in their gardens.

They are given a book when they join and can submit their results on paper or online.

Mr Hack, a semi-retired consultant for Advanced Fiber Products, in Haverhill, said his main task as ambassador was to publicise the project by giving talks and manning stalls at events with the aim of recruiting new members.

The 67-year-old, who



Top role: birdwatcher David Hack.

Picture: Keith Jones 869136

has been part of the project for at least a decade, said: "Garden BirdWatchers gather robust and unbiased data on garden birds and other wildlife which is of great value to researchers, policy makers and conservationists."

"Launched in 1995, this 'citizen science' approach

has revealed a great deal of information about the way in which birds use our gardens."

Members are also given a book of advice on attracting species to your garden and a quarterly magazine.

To find out more, email Mr Hack on dfhack@btinternet.com

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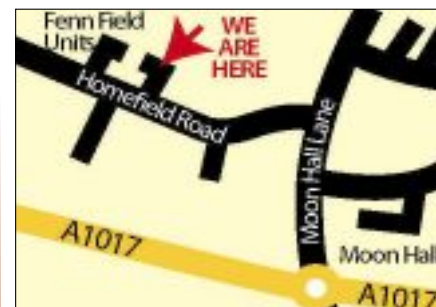
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IN this week's Memories feature we have been asked to help identify two wartime pictures.

Reader Brian Allensby has sent us the two photos and would like more information on both. Can any readers help him?

For the picture above he writes: "Can your readers date and name the children in the photograph taken at a birthday party at a house in Helions Park Avenue during the early years of the Second World War."

"Who's back garden is it? What is the date and who are they?"

"The broken arm was gained after losing balance and rolling head over heels down a railway embankment at the eastern end of the town and finishing up in stinging nettles while picking violets with a young friend."

"A trip to Addenbrooke's was then needed by taxi during wartime."

"When not picking violets we were keeping the gunners company in the

MEMORIES

machine-gun nest above Helions Park."

For the top photo he said: "What can your readers do with identifying the people, place and date of this victory parade in High Street at the centre of Haverhill during the early years of the Second World War."

"A highlight of the week was the Sunday morning church parade from the assembly point in Duddery Road at the eastern end of the town along the High Street to the church of St Mary the Virgin on Market Hill in the centre of Haverhill."

"Two of the regiments were the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and

an Irish regiment (possibly the London Irish Rifles) who wore saffron kilts and had an Irish wolfhound as their mascot, both having full pipe and drum bands."

"This was quite a sight to see marching along the High Street in full dress. Are there any more photographs of any event?"

Send your information or recollections to: Memories, Haverhill Weekly News, 4 Queen Street, Haverhill, CB9 9EF by Tuesday morning, or email editorial@haverhillweeklynews.co.uk

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Drawbridge to stop burglars

A POLICE operation to crack down on burglaries in Suffolk has been launched.

Operation Drawbridge is bent on cutting down on house burglaries in the county by encouraging residents to protect their homes.

It also aims to increase the number of crimes solved by urging people to give the police information which will help bring criminals to justice.

Suffolk Police, which launched the campaign this week, said about 158 burglaries happen in the county each month and the number of offences usually starts to rise in November and December.

The force said its latest figures show a fall in the number of burglaries but tackling this kind of crime is a key priority.

Temporary det chief insp Bernie Morgan said: "It is pleasing to note that burglaries are currently on the decrease, but just one is too many."

"We are determined to bring these figures down

BY JENNIE BAKER

Email: editorial@haverhillweeklynews.co.uk

even further and identify those responsible.

"When someone enters your property uninvited and takes your personal possessions it can be extremely traumatic for victims and we want to make sure that, wherever possible, we stop would-be burglars from having the chance to carry out this offence."

He urged people to make sure all doors and windows are locked before they go out, said leaving a light on will suggest someone is inside and said timer switches can be installed for radios and lights.

He added: "Install a burglar alarm and make sure you never leave a spare key under the doormat or a flowerpot. Burglars will always look there first."

Police will be conducting high visibility patrols in areas affected, calling on homes and

businesses where they suspect people are handling stolen goods and gathering intelligence on culprits.

Paula Abrahams, deputy chief crown prosecutor for the East of England Crown Prosecution Service, said they backed the campaign.

She said: "Burglaries affect people's quality of life long after the crime is committed so by continuing to work with the police and other partner agencies we will endeavour to support strategies aimed at reducing this type of crime and continue to bring offenders to justice."

Call Suffolk Police on 101 or contact Crime-stoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555111 with any information about the handling of stolen goods or burglaries.

Call 999 in an emergency.

More crime prevention advice can be found at www.suffolk.police.uk

Takeover will bring £60m care boost

CARE homes in Suffolk will benefit from £60m of investment after the county council approved plans to hand over current homes to a private company.

The existing 16 residential care homes and eight community wellbeing centres will be replaced by 10 purpose-built homes owned by Care UK.

Suffolk County Council's cabinet voted unanimously to support the takeover at a meeting last Tuesday.

Cllr Colin Noble, Suffolk County Council cabinet member for health and adult care, said: "The most vulnerable in society deserve the very best we can provide them - this deal represents that."

He said the number of older people in the county is expected to increase significantly in the next 20 years and the new care homes will have specialist dementia beds to meet rising demand.

He added: "By transferring our care homes and wellbeing centres to Care UK we will attract a significant amount of investment that otherwise would simply not be available."

He said social care workers would be allocated to each resident to make the transition as smooth as possible.

Staff will retain their jobs and be transferred over to Care UK.

However, Labour councillors hit back at the decision last Thursday, suggesting the finances were unclear and warned the county council to have a plan in place in case Care UK collapses, like Southern Cross in 2011.



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NEW



Helions Bumpstead

£415,000

A charming three bedroom detached cottage situated in a well regarded village and boasts many period features including an Inglenook fireplace and exposed timbers. The property in brief benefits from three double bedrooms, study, double garage, generous rear garden with wonderful views over open countryside.

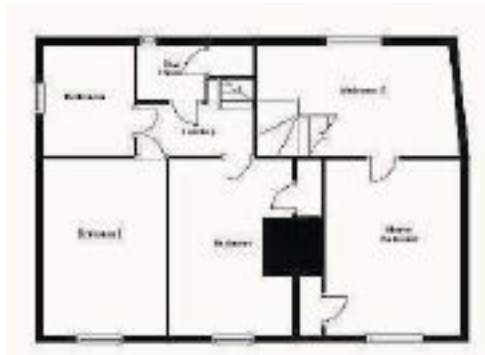
NEW



Haverhill

£130,000

An excellent opportunity to purchase a pair of semi-detached cottages located close to Haverhill town centre that are in need of refurbishment and could also provide a re-development site (stp). Two open days to be held on Saturday 27th Oct & Saturday 3rd Nov from 11.00am - 12.00pm. Offers are to be submitted to Cheffins in writing by close of business Saturday 10th November.



» Golf

Triumphant Jackie's hot to Trot

JACKIE Condon was the clear winner of the first leg of the Ladies Turkey Trot at Haverhill Golf Club.

Condon had a commendable score of 35 points in the stableford event to beat Linda Macfarlane into second on 32. Lady captain Doreen Darbey was third on countback on 27. The final leg is due to be played next month.

■ Peter Driscoll needed countback to win the Rehab Cup, a stableford event played off full handicap. Driscoll just had the edge on the back nine to finish with 38 points to clinch the trophy, trimming his handicap by one shot to 11. Steve Nichols was second with 38 and Tim Daniels third with 37.

■ Haverhill players shot to the fore in the second Suffolk Winter Alliance Meeting held at Bury St Edmunds.

Haverhill's Paul Donno and Colin Bradnam paired up with Stoke by Nayland members Ian Benson and Alan Cursons to win the team event with 85 points, two clear of Howard Foster and Roger Gardiner (both Stoke by Nayland), Dennis Harkness from



Winter warmer: From left, Ian Benson, Alan Cursons, Paul Donno and Colin Bradnam, who won the team event at the Suffolk Winter Alliance Meeting.

Photo: Doug Renyard (CP)

Haverhill and Rushmere's Peter Walters. Tim Cooper (Newton Green), claimed the Professionals' prize with a two-over par 74.

The next Alliance Meeting is due to be held on Sunday at Newton Green.

■ Haverhill Seniors won three matches on the spin, winning 5-3 against both Hintlesham Hall away and Diss at home, and following up with a 4½-3½ victory over Meridian at home.

The run was halted by a 7-1 defeat away at Waldringfield.

■ Haverhill's Parks Team, captained by Malcolm Klinge (for handicaps 0-12) and the Beaumont Team, captained by Dick Sisman (for handicaps 13-24) competed against each other in a friendly match of four ball better ball off three-quarters handicap. The Parks Team secured a comfortable victory by 17 holes.

» Youth football

Mildenhall Tn 4 Thurlow 3

CAMBRIDGE & DIST COLTS LEAGUE, UNDER-16B

THURLOW were unlucky to come away from their match at the leaders with nothing after a thrilling game.

Mildenhall opened the scoring with a near-post header from a corner and extended their advantage with a strike from the edge of the area.

The away team had played some good football in the first half and won a penalty as Jordan Ryan, rising for a cross, was pushed in the back. The spot kick was dispatched by Mitchell Burr.

Thurlow dominated for long periods after the break and Billy Bush found man of the match Burr in space, who hit a glorious lob over the keeper to equalise.

However, Thurlow sat back and Mildenhall seized the opportunity and struck twice in a five-minute period.

Ryan Harrow struck the goal of the game with a drive from outside the area into the top

Thurlow give leaders a fright

corner, but despite a late barrage, Thurlow could not get an equaliser, Ryan's header against the bar the closest they got.

■ An injury to goalkeeper Charlie Mitchison proved key as West Watting lost 11-0 to Royston Town in Division 13A.

Mitchison was injured as Royston broke the deadlock midway through the first half and could not continue.

And despite the best efforts of replacements Daniel Cordwell and Rory Cameron, goals went in at a steady rate.

■ Kedington were beaten 4-3 at home by St Neots in Division 15A. Kedington started well and Leon Bailey was thwarted by a fantastic save, and St Neots rubbed it in with two goals in quick succession.

Just before half time Kedington pulled one back through Ty Alleyne, and they levelled early in the second half when Kieran Harrison was on target.

St Neots then scored twice more before Kedington pulled back another when Steve Boyles and Harrison combined to set up Alleyne to head home.

Despite continuous pressure towards the end of the game Kedington were unable to equalise.

■ Aztecs made light work of the heavy conditions and opponents Elsenham with an 8-2 win in the Cams Mini League, Division 9D.

A quickfire double from Freddie Hounsomes put Aztecs 2-0 up before man of the match Bart Purser latched on to a superb through ball from Lloyd Blackburn to add the third. Blackburn made it four from a tight angle and Oliver Scroggie's deflected effort was No 5.

Sammy Cottage chested in a Hounsomes corner for the sixth and Jordan Chipps made it seven. Elsenham pulled two back, but the scoring was rounded off by the impressive Purser.

» Darts

Haverhill Darts League

Division One									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		
The Bull A.....	10	7	3	0	55	25	24		
Punch Bees.....	10	4	2	4	41	39	14		
HSGB A.....	10	3	5	2	39	41	14		
Rose & Crown A.....	10	3	4	3	43	37	13		
ESMC.....	10	3	4	3	39	41	13		
Rovers A.....	10	0	2	8	23	58	2		

Captains Cup									
	P	W	L	Pts					
Rose & Crown A.....	10	9	1	18					
Punch Bees.....	10	7	3	14					
Rovers A.....	10	5	5	10					
HSGB A.....	10	5	5	10					
ESMC.....	10	2	8	4					
The Bull A.....	10	2	8	4					

Division Two									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		
Rovers B (Pirates).....	10	6	3	1	55	25	21		
White Hart.....	10	6	2	2	53	27	20		
Rose & Crown B.....	10	6	2	2	51	29	20		
HSGB C.....	10	3	2	5	31	49	11		
OH (Blackpack).....	10	1	1	8	18	62	4		
The Bull B.....	10	1	0	9	14	66	3		

Captains Cup									
	P	W	L	Pts					
Rovers B (Pirates).....	10	9	1	18					
White Hart.....	10	6	4	12					
HSGB C.....	10	5	5	10					
Rose & Crown B.....	10	4	6	8					
OH (Blackpack).....	10	2	8	4					
The Bull B.....	10	2	8	4					

» Tennis

Thrill of the Chase

JASPER Chase won Haverhill Tennis Club's third event of its winter tournament programme, a Green Mini event for players aged 10 and under.

Players use a green ball which bounces 90 per cent of the height of a normal tennis ball and play on a full-size court, playing one short set to four games.

Chase, of Culford, started off with a defeat to home player Thomas Parrett, losing a final game tie-break to go down 5-4. Sebastian Clatworthy then beat



Courting success: From left, Keri Tobin, Luke Marsh, Jasper Chase, Sebastian Clatworthy. CP

Keri Tobin by the same score.

Chase recovered to beat Luke Marsh 4-2, and was a convincing winner against the other players, taking the title on game difference. Marsh won all his

other matches to finish second, with Clatworthy third. Tobin played some great matches against the boys and was unlucky not to beat Marsh in their final game, just missing the line on a match point.

» Youth rugby

Cooper quick out of blocks

OLIVER Cooper's try in the first minute set Haverhill under-12s on their way to a 43-21 win at Witham and himself on the way to a four-try haul.

Cooper touched down the opener after a fine run, and Dean Cleary converted, and Cleary again kicked the extras after Mitchell Morgan crashed through several attempted tackles to drive over.

Haverhill allowed Witham to score a converted try, but with the front row of Lewis, Elliot McPhail and Jake North dominating the scrum, it was not long before Cooper went over for his second, Cleary converting.

Harry Mumford completed the first-half scoring following a superb run from deep.

Witham started the second half well, with another converted try. This spurred Haverhill on and No 8 Oliver Jury, controlled the ball at the

base of the scrum, enabling Cooper to score two more tries.

Mumford dotted down his second try, Cleary converting, before the hosts got a consolation converted try.

■ Max Dearman and Craig Martin Gowing both scored twice as Haverhill under-nines and under-10s teamed up to beat their Witham counterparts 30-15.

Scrum-half Martin Gowing fed Hayden Lawrence for the first try, and crossed for the second himself. Oscar Harwood then smashed his way over for the third.

A complete change of personnel for the second quarter saw Theo Darvill link well with Connor Gillingham to put Dearman into space for the fourth, but Witham pulled one back before half time.

The home side added a further two tries after half time, but Martin Gowing

took a line-out ball on his own tryline and accelerated through the Witham defence to run the length of the pitch for his second. Dearman put the match to bed, collecting a Witham knock-on and finishing in style.

■ Elijah Brandt and Ewan Gray were among the try-scorers in a great all-round team effort as Haverhill under-sevens beat Witham 30-20.

Also on duty were Bradley Peachey, Jack Davis, Orlando Crook, Samuel Thomas-Robbins, Mason Gillingham, Maddox Claydon, Arun Varia and Amelia Grey.

Some of the under-sevens also stepped up to represent the under-eights in their 35-30 defeat by Witham.

Gillingham, Nathan Smith, Kofe Brandt, Angus Duckworth and Joe Starr scored the tries, while Claydon, Oliver Brown and Harry Lawrence were on top form in defence.

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